

# Call for application

## Mediterranean Student Summit

*By UNIMED and ESN, with the support of Abdelmalek Essaadi University*

UNIMED and the Erasmus Student Network, with the support of Abdelmalek Essaadi University will organise in Tangier the second Mediterranean student event, an initiative that seeks to bring together Higher Education students from both shores of the Mediterranean to foster intercultural dialogue and work together on common challenges. After the success of the first edition, this initiative paves the way for the establishment of an annual event focusing on student engagement and intercultural dialogue with students from UNIMED Universities. This edition will be your opportunity to help shape the future of Higher Education in the Mediterranean over the coming years. Influencing policy recommendations that will be put forward at the First Ministerial Conference<sup>1</sup> on Higher Education organized by the Union for the Mediterranean this November.

### The Mediterranean student event

The first edition was held in November 2022 at the University of Barcelona and gathered 17 students from 8 countries, from the northern shore (Cyprus, France, Italy, Portugal and Spain) and the southern shore (Algeria, Lebanon and Palestine) of the Mediterranean. You can have a look at some highlights of the event and at what students shared with us [here!](#)

UNIMED and ESN want to turn the Mediterranean student event into a yearly initiative that gradually grows in size and scope. During the first “pilot” edition, the organisations planned a small-scale event, building on ESN’s expertise in organising training and capacity building events for young people from diverse backgrounds and nationalities.

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<sup>1</sup> Meeting among Ministries of Higher Education of the UfM countries. This ministerial meeting should lay the bases for a renewed regional cooperation on higher education and constitute a powerful tool to give guidance to both policymakers and institutions by establishing clear priorities for cooperation.

The second edition of the event will gather at least **30 students** from UNIMED member Universities and will take place in the Mediterranean city of Tangier, organised in collaboration with the Abdelmalek Essaadi University.

As part of this edition, **online training sessions** will be provided to selected students to prepare them before the Summit. They will take place in **June, July and September 2023** (max 2 per month). There will also be 2 follow-up meetings after the event to finalise the recommendations and to discuss the outcomes of the Ministerial Conference.

These sessions (before and after) are full part of the Summit and will allow students to be familiar with the objectives of the Mediterranean Student Summit, to be prepared and thus to make the Summit more interactive and instructive.

Online sessions will include:

- ice breaking sessions and intercultural activities;
- presentation of UNIMED and ESN as well as other regional, national and international stakeholders;
- presentation of the Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and the unique opportunity it represents to elaborate and communicate Students recommendations.

The **content** of the event will revolve around four interlinked themes:

- **Improving intercultural dialogue and student-led internationalisation in the Mediterranean.** Within this theme, the student will discuss topics such as: How can we bring students from different corners of the Mediterranean together? What is the role of the students to establish long-lasting connections that benefit the whole academic community? What are the demands for University leadership and decision makers?
- **The creation of a Mediterranean Erasmus Generation: how to connect the region through student mobility and international friendship.** As part of this block, participants will discuss how we can boost mobility opportunities between the two shores of the Mediterranean, and also within South Mediterranean countries: do we need a new mobility programme? What makes a mobility experience impactful? How can we convince others to take part?
- **Building the University of the future in the Mediterranean.** In this block, students will discuss which kind of University they would like to see in the future, and which actions are needed to get there.
- **Drafting recommendations for the Ministerial Conference to make the students' voice heard.** Thanks to the preliminary online sessions and the working sessions during the Summit, students will be guided in identifying, defining and writing recommendations on some challenges jointly identified by ESN and UNIMED.

## Objectives and expected outcomes

The general objective of the event is to increase mutual awareness and understanding among students from the Mediterranean region and to support the development of competencies that help them to work together on societal challenges and to establish meaningful connections.

The specific objectives are:

- Come up with specific ideas in the key themes of the event and discuss them with University leadership, international organisations and other key stakeholders.
- Increase the awareness among participants of existing opportunities such as International Credit Mobilities, and turn them into multipliers that can support others.
- Build foundations and gather impressions from the participants on their needs and expectations to build long-term collaborations beyond the event.
- Foster the participation of students in international networks and international initiatives.
- Gain a deeper competence and understanding of internationalisation of Higher Education across the Mediterranean as well as the key players in the space.
- Policy outputs that will be published prior to the Higher Education Ministerial Conference.

## **When & where**

Tangier, 20-22 September 2023

## **Target audience**

The target audience is mainly Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility alumni (or alumni from other international mobility opportunities) and representatives from student organisations that can have a multiplier effect and reach out to others.

## **Working language**

For this edition, the working language will be English. Candidates must have a good understanding/expression of English. No language certificate is required for the application but a good command of this language is mandatory.

## **Preliminary selection**

We kindly ask UNIMED associates to proceed with the first selection phase, targeting students who can have a positive and multiplier impact inside the university. Each university is required to send at least two students' candidatures for the final selection. We kindly ask you to inform the candidates of the necessity to attend the online activities before and after the Summit and to assess their commitment.

## Application procedure

UNIMED universities are invited to request from their students the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Personal commitment to participate in the online activities
- A personal contribution/reflection on the Mediterranean community and the role that students can play for strengthening the internationalisation of their university. Students are invited to use the following guiding questions when preparing their applications:
  - Why would you like to be a participant in the Mediterranean Student Summit? What do you feel you can contribute?
  - How have your international experiences abroad changed your perspective? What have you learned from your international experiences?
  - What is your vision for the Mediterranean Erasmus Generation? When you think of students from all across the Mediterranean collaborating together, learning from each other and exchanging ideas?
  - What do you see as the biggest challenge and the biggest opportunity for Higher Education in the Mediterranean?
  - How do you see your role and responsibility as a multiplier ambassador after the summit back in your university?
  - **Please try to stay below 2 pages**

UNIMED universities are invited to send the candidatures to:

[unimed@uni-med.net](mailto:unimed@uni-med.net), [yassin.khalil@esn.org](mailto:yassin.khalil@esn.org) and [sara.tagliabracci@esn.org](mailto:sara.tagliabracci@esn.org) indicating in the subject: **Mediterranean Students Summit applications**.

## Final selection and evaluation process

A selection committee composed by members of UNIMED and ESN will analyse and proceed to the final selection of applications taking the following criteria into consideration:

- Relevance/pertinence of the personal contribution
- Geographical balance between both shores of the Mediterranean
- Gender balance
- Balance between the scientific disciplines
- Candidate's personal experience

## Deadline for submission

In order to arrange all logistical aspects (including visa procedures), UNIMED associates are kindly asked to send the candidatures before **14th May**.

The results will be communicated by **the end of May**.